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THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (a) & (b) A statement is placed on the table of the house.

(c) There is no application pending with Government.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : May I know the reason why the last portion of my question, namely, clause (c), has not been answered by the Government? The date of the applications has not been given.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Clause (c) relates to the number of applications not disposed of and the dates of those applications. There is no application pending with the Government. Therefore, we do not think it necessary to answer the other part.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : What I would like to know from the Hon. Minister is whether it is fact that there has been considerable delay between the date of the application and the date of sanctioning of the advances.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : A certain amount of time is necessary for verification of details. Beyond that, there has been no instance brought to our notice of inordinate delay.

Oriental Colleges

* 4 Q.—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the enhanced dearness allowance of Rs. 12 and Rs. 5 are paid to the members of the staff of Oriental Colleges; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) & (b) : The payment of dearness allowance to the staff of Oriental Colleges is left to the discretion of the managements. Expenditure on dearness allowance paid at Government rates will, however, be taken into account for purposes of grant.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Sir, is it not the policy of the Government to see that especially dearness allowance is paid to employees along with other teachers?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : That is why the Government make grants equivalent to what they have laid down as Government scales of dearness allowance.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Am I to understand that all these oriental colleges have not yet paid this allowance?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The information that I have shows that there is only one college which does not get any grant from the Government. That is the college at Perambur.

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a Printed as Appendix I on page 63 infra.

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SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Are the Government aware that in respect of all other aided institutions, the Government insist on the payment of this allowance?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : It is not a question of insisting on the payment of this allowance. The Government permit these institutions to pay even more than the Government scales of dearness allowance.

Care milk powder

* 5 Q.—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN and SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the number of students affected by the use of CARE milk powder?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : It is presumed that the Member refers to the food poisoning incident in the Athipatti Junior Basic School. Forty children were affected of whom four died after consuming rice with curd prepared out of CARE Milk powder.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Was chemical toxico-bacteriological test conducted by experts on the milk powder since so many children died?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir. The test conducted on the milk powder shows that there was nothing wrong with the milk powder.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : It is one of the findings of that committee that milk prepared in cold water and not boiled afterwards is more injurious to health. Were instructions issued to that effect?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : By way of abundant caution, they were advised to prepare this milk with hot water.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Is it one of the findings of the committee that curd prepared out of this CARE milk powder is very harmful to health and not reconstituted milk?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : It was not so, but by way of abundant caution, they were advised to have it distributed as milk and not as buttermilk.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Has there been any case of death after the recent instructions issued by the Government to prepare curd from this powder in hot water?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Now it is distributed as milk. It is prepard in hot water and there has been no case of death of chidren who took this milk.